

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

TRY IT.

By Rev. William Alvin Bartlett. The problem is to freeze ice in the centre of a red-hot crucible. It can be done. Let the crucible be of platinum. Heat it red over a spirit-lamp. Pour into it some sulphuric acid—that most nervous and volatile substance. It will refuse to evaporate. Gently drop some common water within. The sulphuric acid will be so instantaneously vaporized that the entire of the water will be carried off, and it will fall a lump of ice to the bottom. Ice frozen in the centre of a red-hot crucible! If science makes such a claim, we have no right to dispute it until we try it. We must try it, too, exactly according to directions. It will not be fair to employ a silver instead of a platinum crucible; nor a different acid, nor invert the order by introducing first the water and then the acid. The only method of ascertaining the correctness of this truly marvellous assertion is to try it, and that in strict conformity with the chemist's plan. The astronomer designates the latitude, the night, the quarter of the heavens, where, through a proper telescope, Saturn with his moons and rings will display. If we are incredulous we must try it, without varying a condition. Who knows but we may trip up the astronomer!

It is the latest demand which a new principle or invention ever makes when it says, "Try me!" Without trial, your opinion, whether favorable or unfavorable, will only reflect prejudice or hearsay, and is valueless. "Pshaw! It is not reasonable that ice can be frozen in a red-hot vessel. I will not waste time on such palpable nonsense." That is no trial. That is sentence of death without calling a witness. It is lynch law.

The Christian religion appears in this most reasonable of all attitudes, and invites, "Try me." It does not rely upon its credentials, like an unknown youth in a strange city, though these are the most thorough possible under the circumstances. No facts of equal antiquity are so well established. Christianity, however, does not make its stand here. History at best is faulty and imperfect; and, though it were exact, each judge of it must be an historical critic, and that at last would be trying credentials, not Christianity. You haven't tested a man for your business when you have satisfied yourself that his recommendations are genuine and authentic. Christianity's truth is not staked upon its credentials—least of all, upon some special theory of them. It makes very little difference what you call the Bible, provided you practice its truths.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

EPISCOPAL.—Mr. Gladstone had somewhat endangered his popularity by completely overlooking the Evangelical wing of the Church of England in his appointment of the new bishop. He has given them and the people of Wales satisfaction by appointing Rev. Joseph Hughes, a thoroughly good man, who can talk Welsh, Bishop of St. David's.

It was threatened to express high ecclesiastical censure of Bishop Temple, in almost the only available manner, by refusing to elect him Vice-President of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. But the effort was a failure, even the bishops most opposed to the Bishop of Exeter at last approved of the plan.

The Protestant Churchman is not satisfied with the religious character of the "Sheltering Arms," an Episcopal institution for the care of friendly children, under the patronage of the rector of Trinity Church. There is a sisterhood connected with the "Sheltering Arms," whose chaplain has prepared for their use a "Book of Hours," in which are contained papers for the dead. He has publicly denounced Protestantism, and their chapel contains an oratory with an altar within its walls.

According to the plan adopted by the Irish Episcopal Church Convention, it will require the agreement of 7 bishops to veto the action of the cleric and lay orders. The evangelical party, by a large majority, retained a victory by a large vote on an apparently trivial but really important matter. It was proposed to declare that the Church consisted of three orders—bishops, priests, and laymen. The vote was to change "priests" to "priests or presbyters," the object of the alternate phraseology being to do away with the sacerdotal aspect of the word "priest."

Dr. Lord, senior professor in the Northwestern Presbyterian Seminary, at Chicago, has been elected President of Western University, Ohio. His acceptance, it may mollify the ill-feeling of the McOmick party, who have refused to aid the seminary so long as such a pronounced anti-slavery man as Dr. Lord was connected with it.

The new Presbytery of Colorado, organized by the last General Assembly, held its first meeting February 18. It covers Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana; and almost its first action was to take measures for subdivision.

Another of the Tyng family, Rev. Morris A. Tyng, has been ordained as preacher, and is becoming professor of biblical literature in Gambler (O.) Seminary. He has for some time been his father's assistant in St. George's Church.

McGill University, Montreal, under Presbyterian control, has within a few weeks secured over \$40,000 for its endowment, and Principal Dawson thinks three times as much will be received.

The foundation of a Scotch Presbyterian church at Rome has been laid. It will cost, including ground, \$50,000, of which a part comes from America.

The Scottish sustentation policy finds increasing favor among the Southern Presbyterians. Last year the minimum salary was \$600; this year it is \$750.

Since the revival, the First, Third, and Fifth Presbyterian churches of Cincinnati have adopted the free-seat plan.

Three Presbyterian churches were organized in Colorado during the first week in March.

The five million Presbyterian fund is not advancing.

CONGREGATIONAL.—The Examiner and Chronicle thinks that Rev. Alexander McKenzie, Congregationalist, of Cambridge, made a mistake in exchanging with Chandler Robbins, D. D., Unitarian, of Boston. Although personally Dr. Robbins may be Evangelical enough, that paper thinks it unsafe to recognize a denomination which affiliates with Universalism and skepticism.

The Second Congregational Church in Greenwich, Conn., and the Fourth, of Hartford, have decided to allow women and minors to vote for church officers.

Rev. A. B. Cross, of Cambridgeport, Crawford county, Pa., writes that, as missionary committee, he wants three Congregational ministers, ready to do hard work.

A large number of colored Congregational churches, mainly composed of colored people, have within a year been organized in the region of New Orleans. Dr. Post, of St. Louis, is now visiting them, to judge of their progress and to organize them into a state association.

against Masonry; and the Advance says that, in retaliation, most of the Masons have signed a pledge not to aid in support of Congregational churches until the Conference withdraws its resolutions.

BAPTIST.—The Standard, the Baptist paper of Chicago, has been publishing several communications from Dr. W. H. Hyder, in explanation or defense of the Universalist belief. On both sides the discussion has been exceedingly courteous and fraternal.

There is a Freewill Baptist conference in North Carolina which has 37 ministers, 57 churches, and 2888 members. Their numbers have trebled in 16 years.

Rutger's College proposes to celebrate its centennial this year. They hope to raise money to erect a chapel, a geological hall, and to endow two professorships.

The Missionary Baptist just started in Corsicana is the third religious paper of Texas.

REFORMED.—The newspapers of the (German) Reformed Church are somewhat disturbed by the recent defection of Rev. John A. Wagner, of Lancaster, Pa., to the Church of Rome. The anti-liturgical party in that church charge that it represents the natural tendency of their opponents, who follow the lead of Dr. Nevin; while the liturgical party reply that Mr. Wagner some time ago had resolved to secede to the Roman Church, but was only prevented at that time by the arguments of Dr. Nevin, which then quite satisfied him to remain in the Reformed body.

METHODIST.—The Baltimore Advocate, Southern Methodist, is generally very bitter against the Northern Methodists; but it defends the Book Concern against the charges of Dr. Lashburn, who happens to be a Baltimorean, from whom it has no regard. It accounts for his action by representing him as a man of singular constitution, whose pet hobby it is ever to be unearthing some enormous and complicated conspiracy. It mentions especially his discovery of a camp-meeting massacre and spring-poisoning conspiracy, with which he started the public in the early part of the war.

LUTHERAN.—The Southern Lutheran Church has not a single missionary nor a single theological student. The Southern Methodists have a missionary or two in China, who support themselves while the Church is trying to raise the \$20,000 which the Northern Methodist Missionary Society was obliged to pay during the war on the notes which it had endorsed. About \$8000 have been paid, and \$3000 more, which should have been paid, was lost by the speculation of the treasurer of the Southern Missionary Society.

UNITARIAN.—Seven Unitarian conferences have raised \$2000 to aid divinity students in Cambridge. This is more than is immediately needed. There are 40 students on the roll of those aided, of whom 3 are Harvard University, theological students, and 37 are in the Cambridge Theological Seminary, and 30 belong to the regular classes of the Divinity School. We notice that the late catalogue contains the names of thirty theological students, of whom four are college graduates.

UNIVERSALIST.—The Universalist Centenary offering is satisfactorily progressing. At Akron, Ohio, has pledged \$60,000 for the projected State school, which is to be controlled by the denomination.

CATHOLIC.—Dr. Newman, the great leader of the English converts to the Roman Church, denies that he has attempted the promotion of a papal infallibility as "an insolent, aggressive faction," but adds that he "deeply deprecates the policy, the spirit, the measures of various persons, lay and ecclesiastical, who are urging the definition of that theological opinion." At the same time he has a firm belief that a greater Power is so overruling the deliberations of the Council as that "what its Fathers eventually proclaim will be the Word of God."

There is a general impression that the Vatican Council will soon be proclaimed, not to meet again till next winter, or until the Pope shall summon the members. The French Government has abandoned the idea of sending a delegate, as the plans for concerted action with Spain, Austria, and Italy have failed. It is more and more evident that intelligent Romanists of Germany oppose the infallibility dogma. The Catholic theological faculties—including Munich, Bonn, Prague, Munster, and several other institutions—have formally expressed their support of Dr. Dollinger in his vigorous protest against the proposed dogma.

The Bishop of Ratibon has addressed a letter from Rome, in which he forbids all young men from his diocese to attend the lectures of Dr. Dollinger, lest their faith should be injured by exposure to so noxious an influence as that of the champion of those who oppose Papal infallibility.

The Papal Government has suppressed the Osservatore Romano, the best paper in Rome, though poor and diminutive enough, for venturing outside of its ordinary praise of the Papal Government to criticize some articles in the Exhibition of Christian Art.

Many Catholic priests, including Father Hyacinth, have attended several of the services at the Talbot Chapel, Paris, where M. Bersler, one of the pastors of the French Independent Church and one of the most eloquent preachers in Paris, has just finished a series of discourses on "The Future Life according to the Gospel."

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WANTS.

TO THE WORKING CLASSES.—We are prepared to furnish all classes with constant employment at home, the whole of the time or for spare moments, for the purpose of earning money. Persons of either sex can earn from \$10 to \$25 per week, and a proportional sum by devoting less time to the business. Steps and a card sent to such men. That all who see this notice may send their address, and the business, we make this notice a public offer. To such as are not well satisfied, we will send \$1 to pay for the trouble of writing. Full particulars in the valuable sample which will do to commence work on, and to send to the business, we make this notice a public offer. To such as are not well satisfied, we will send \$1 to pay for the trouble of writing. Full particulars in the valuable sample which will do to commence work on, and to send to the business, we make this notice a public offer.

WILLIAM ANDERSON & CO., DEALERS in Fine Waltham, No. 146 North SECOND Street, Philadelphia.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE.

MARVIN'S

PHILADELPHIA, March 25, 1870.

IN accordance with a resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia on Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of March, 1870, the annexed bill, entitled "An Ordinance to authorize a loan for the erection of a bridge across the river Schuylkill at Fairmount," is hereby published for public information.

JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

AN ORDINANCE To Authorize a Loan for the Erection of a Bridge across the River Schuylkill at Fairmount.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Mayor of Philadelphia be and he is hereby authorized to borrow, at not less than par, on the credit of the City Corporation, from time to time, such sums of money as may be necessary to pay for the construction and erection of a bridge over the river Schuylkill at Fairmount, not exceeding in the whole the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars, for which interest to be paid to exceed the rate of one per centum shall be paid, half-yearly, on the first days of January and July, at the office of the City Treasurer.

Section 2. Whenever any loan shall be made by virtue thereof, there shall be, by force of this ordinance, annually appropriated out of the income of the corporate estates and from the sum raised by taxation, a sum sufficient to pay the interest on said certificates; and the further sum of three-tenths of one per centum on the par value of such certificates so issued, shall be appropriated quarterly out of said income and taxes to a sinking fund, which fund and its accumulations are hereby especially pledged for the redemption and payment of said certificates.

RESOLUTION TO PUBLISH A LOAN BILL. Resolved, That the Clerk of Common Council be and he is hereby authorized to publish in two daily newspapers of this city, daily for two weeks, the ordinance presented to the Common Council on Thursday, March 24, 1870, entitled "An ordinance to authorize a loan for the erection of a bridge across the river Schuylkill at Fairmount."

JOHN ECKSTEIN, Clerk of Common Council.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER SCHUYLKILL AT FAIRMOUNT, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUND RENTS AND MORTGAGES.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That the Mayor of Philadelphia be and he is hereby authorized to borrow, at not less than par, on the credit of the City, from time to time, one million five hundred thousand dollars, to be applied as follows, viz.:—First, For the building of a bridge over the River Schuylkill at South Street, eight hundred thousand dollars. Second, For the payment of ground rents and mortgages, seven hundred thousand dollars, for which interest not to exceed the rate of six per cent. per annum shall be paid half yearly on the first days of January and July, at the office of the City Treasurer.

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CITY ORDINANCES.

COMMON COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA.

CLERK'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, March 25, 1870.

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REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.

PUBLIC SALE.—THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers, Very elegant country seat, 22 1/2 acres, fronting on the Wissahickon turnpike and Wissahickon creek, Chestnut Hill, 1 1/2 miles off the Railroad depot, Twenty-second ward, on Tuesday, April 13, 1870, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that very elegant country seat, about 22 1/2 acres of land, situate on the Wissahickon turnpike, one square from the toll-gate on the Reading road, and nearly surrounded by the Wissahickon creek. The improvements are a handsome modern three-story granite-stone mansion, well and substantially built by the late owner, without regard to cost; has hall in the centre, parlor, sitting-room, dining-room, and kitchen on the first floor; three chambers, study, and bath room on the second floor; and three chambers on the third floor; laundry and dry room in the basement, with stationary stove, hot and cold water, two furnaces, cooking range; porch front and back; stone terrace, green lawn and carriage house, cow house, ice house, green house, grape house, chicken house, vegetable garden, etc. Also, a handsome three-story stone tenant house, containing, nine rooms. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and planted with evergreen, gum, Norway spruce, chestnut, larch, pine, and locust trees, a large orchard of apple, cherry, and quince trees, abundance of small fruits, shrubbery, etc. The above is a beautiful and commanding view of a beautiful view of the valley. Immediate possession. Will be shown by Mr. Patrick Monk, on the premises. Terms—Half cash. 2 1/2 to 3 M. THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers, No. 139 and 141 S. FOURTH ST.

EXECUTORS' SALE.—ESTATE OF JOHN W. CLAGHORN, deceased.—Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers.—On Tuesday, April 13, 1870, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, late of John W. Claghorn, deceased, viz.:—No. 1, Modern Four-story brick dwelling, No. 106 S. 11th Street. All that modern four-story brick dwelling, with all the buildings and lot of ground, situate on the west side of Fifth Street, 40 feet wide of Ince Street, No. 294; containing in front 50 feet 10 inches wide alley, and extending in depth 30 feet to a 10 feet wide alley, has the modern conveniences. Terms—Half cash. No. 2, Large and Valuable Stable and Dwelling. All that valuable lot of ground and building, situate on the south side of Callowhill Street, west of Ninth Street, No. 910 and 912; the lot containing in front 53 feet, and extending in depth 100 feet, has the modern conveniences as a brick stable and dwelling. Terms—Half cash. No. 3, Four three-story brick dwellings, Nos. 909, 911, 913, and 915, and the lot of ground, situate on the north side of Arch Street, west of Tenth Street, and containing in front 170 feet, and extending in depth 170 feet, has the modern conveniences. Terms—Half cash. No. 4, Three three-story brick dwellings, Nos. 1029, 1031, and 1033, and the lot of ground, situate on the north side of Arch Street, west of Tenth Street, and containing in front 170 feet, and extending in depth 170 feet, has the modern conveniences. Terms—Half cash. No. 5, and 6, Three three-story brick dwellings, Nos. 1029, 1031, and 1033, and the lot of ground, situate on the north side of Arch Street, west of Tenth Street, and containing in front 170 feet, and extending in depth 170 feet, has the modern conveniences. Terms—Half cash.

EXECUTORS' SALE.—ESTATE OF JOHN W. CLAGHORN, deceased.—Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers.—On Tuesday, April 13, 1870, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, late of John W.